Copergaon-Shirdi Rail Line

2594. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the laying of rail line from Copergaon to Shirdi in Maharashtra, a sacred, holy temple city for which budget was sanctioned in the past, was stopped, because the Shirdi Sai BabaTempleTrust refused to contribute;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had sanctioned this project in the past for the convenience of the large number of devotees visiting Shirdi Temple; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. However, based on demands from public, including their elected representatives, the take off point has been changed from Copergaon to Punthamba.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Conversion of **Viramgam-Mehsana-Patan Rail Tracks**

2595. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been persistent demand from Gujarat and Rajasthan for converting the Rail tracks between Viramgam and Mehsana, Mehsana and Patan in W.R., Bhildi Jodhpur (N.R.), from meter gauge to broad gauge;

(b) whether preliminary survey has been done in this regard; and

(c) if so, by when the Railways would finalise these conversion projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c)The work of conversion of these lines is already under progress. The projects involved areViramgam- Mehsana-Patan-Bhildi, Bhildi-Samdari and Luni-Munabao. The completion of these sections would, however, depend on availability of resources.

Passes for Railway Employees

2596. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government banned LTC facility for Central Government employees in 2000;

(b) whether the officers and employees working in his Ministry are enjoying pass facility; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not imposing ban on the use of passes by officers and employees of his Ministry, when other Central Government employees have not been enjoying the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c)The LTC facility to the Central Government employees has been suspended for a period of two years from 02.03.2001 as a part of expenditure management. However, Railway empoyees are not governed by LTC rules, but by Railway Servants (Pass) Rules, 1986 which provide for Privilege Passes as a service condition.

Tenders By Rail Workshop Modernisation Organisation

† 2597. DR.M.N.DAS:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for floating tenders by Rail Workshop Modernisation Organisation;

(b) the total number of a wheel lathe tenders floated during the last five years, the total number of machines procured by Cofmow, the rail Workshop Modernisation Organisation; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.